THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) INS Vikrant has been decommissioned from the Indian Navy on 31 st January, 1997 and is no longer available to the Navy for deployment.

(b) Decommissioning of ships by the Indian Navy is done in a planned and phased manner. Currently the aircraft carrier Viraat is operational.

(c) Induction of new naval ships, including aircraft carrier is planned. The Navy has finalised the purchase of a new aircraft carrier in January, 2004.

Ban on entry into DSOI, Delhi

804. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people wearing dhotis and kurta-pyjama are banned from entering Defence Services Officers' Institute, New Delhi (Dhaula Kuan); and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to remove such a ban immediatel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Defence Sevices, Officers' Institute has been established from the Defence Services Officers' Welfare Fund and has members exclusively from the Armed Forces. Like any service institute it has its own rules and by-laws and a strict dress code for its members, guests and visiting dignitaries. Only full or half sleeve shirt or T-shirt with collar, trousers and shoes are allowed. In formal functions lounge suit or national dress is prescribed. This is strictly followed.

Causes of Jaguar crashes

†805. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts out of the fleet of Jaguar destroyed due to the accidents and the number of pilots killed therein;

(b) whether increasing age or the absence of timely technical assistance and advice by the French company to the Air Force regarding maintenance of these aircrafts have been the main reasons for such accidents;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.